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Holy Cross Lutheran Church
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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Words from the Cross

“These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.”
(John 12: 41 NKJV)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The name Isaiah means “Yahweh saves” or “Yahweh is salvation.” Isaiah is the author of the longest prophetic book in the Bible. He was born around 740 BC and was martyred around 681 BC during the reign of Manasseh. Isaiah has been described as the “evangelical prophet” and this title is fully justified because he is more frequently quoted by Jesus, Paul, Peter, and John (in his Revelation) than any other Old Testament (O.T.) prophet.

During both our Sunday morning and our Wednesday evening worship services this Advent season, we will be going through Isaiah’s prophecies extensively as we prepare to celebrate our Savior’s birth. In a way, it will be as if we are walking in the sandals of O.T. believers, listening to the words of the prophet as he proclaims the coming of God our Savior. We have much in common with Isaiah’s hearers, not only because we too are being threatened by many and powerful enemies and that many in our country have abandoned the One True God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), but we also are longing for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ when He shall return to make an end of the power of sin, death, and the devil forever and establish His everlasting kingdom of peace.

We have much to be thankful for already because our Lord kept His promise of a Savior given through Isaiah.

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and shall call His name Immanuel (God-with-us).”*
(Is. 7:14 NKJV)

We also rejoice in the fact that the One He prophesied about is not only a man, but fully God.

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice. From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

(Is. 9: 6-7 NKJV)

As we hear and believe the Word of the Lord through His prophet Isaiah, what can we do but rejoice and be glad? May the Lord grant us His grace to show and share His truth with others so that they too may have a reason to rejoice and be glad this Christmas season.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Skelton